

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Brief Description Of The Drawings, appearing at page 24, line 15 through page 26, line 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph, which is revised to add a brief description of new Fig. 3':

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The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of preferred embodiments, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which are presented as a non-limiting example, in which reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the various views, and wherein:

Fig. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a general environment for usage of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a schematic block diagram of the present invention under an exemplary situation in which Central Office equipment has been provisioned for xDSL service and Remote equipment does not employ a splitter;

Fig. 3 is a schematic block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention used in connection with two exemplary high speed (xDSL) modems adapted to transmit signals to each other over a communication channel;

Fig. 3' is a schematic block diagram of the preferred embodiment of the present invention used in connection with a plurality of exemplary high speed (xDSL) modems adapted to transmit signals to each other over a communication channel;

Fig. 4 is a state transition diagram for a transaction message sequence of an xTU-R unit;

Fig. 5 is a state transition diagram for a transaction message sequence of an xTU-C unit;

Fig. 6 is a labeling and order format convention for octets in a message;

Fig. 7 is a field mapping convention for data that does not reside in a single octet;

Fig. 8 is a bit order for two octets of a Frame Check Sequence (FCS);

Fig. 9 is the structure of octets in a Frame;

Fig. 10 shows three types of fields of information;

Fig. 11 is a tree structure that links various parameters (NPars and SPars) in an Identification (I) field and a Standard Information (S) field;

Fig. 12 shows a transmission order of NPars and SPars in a message;

Fig. 13 shows the structure of octets in the Identification (I) field;

Fig. 14 shows the structure of Non-Standard information blocks in a Non-Standard information (NS) field; and

Fig. 15 shows the octet structure of data in each Non-Standard information block.

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 27, lines 8-11 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. 3 and 3' illustrate detailed block diagrams of the first embodiment of the data communication system of Fig. 1. This embodiment represents a typical installation, in which both the central office system 2 and the remote system 4 implement the instant invention. Fig. 3' differs from Fig. 3 in that Fig. 3' illustrates the use of plural high speed sections, to be discussed below.

Please insert the following new paragraph between lines 15 and 16 of page 29 of the specification:

As understood from the above, Fig. 3 illustrates a construction in which high speed sections 66 and 72 of the central office system 2 represents a "single box" solution, that includes one or more high speed (xDSL) modems, such as, but not limited to, the aforementioned ADSL, HDSL, SHDSL, VDSL, CDSL modems, and in which the high speed sections 68 and 70 of the remote system 4 represents a "single box" solution that includes one or more high speed (xDSL) modems. On the other hand, Fig. 3' illustrates a construction in which a plurality of physically distinct high speed sections 66a, 66b and 72a, 72b are provided, in which high speed sections 66a and 72a of the central office system 2 represent a physical first high speed (xDSL) modem, such as, for example, an ADSL modem, and high speed sections 66b and 72b of the central office system 2 represent a physical second high speed (xDSL) modem, such as, for example, a VDSL modem, and in which the remote system 4 includes a plurality of physically distinct high speed sections 68a, 68b and high

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speed sections **70a**, **70b**, in which high speed sections **68a** and **70a** of the remote system **4** represent a physical first high speed (xDSL) modem and high speed sections **68b** and **70b** of the remote system **4** represent a physical second high speed (xDSL) modem. In this regard, it is understood by those skilled in the art that one can “mix and match” the modem configuration without departing from the scope and/or spirit of the invention. Thus, one may employ the “single box” solution with, for example, the remote system **4**, and the physically distinct modems with, for example, the central office system **2**. Alternatively, a “single box” solution (e.g., a single device that supports, for example, ADSL and VDSL) can be combined with a physically distinct modem that supports, for example, CDSL. Further, the illustration of two physical high speed modems (physically distinct modems) in Fig. 3' is for illustration purposes only, and thus, more than two physically distinct modems may be used.

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